

Dean of the Undergraduate School for Women and established the Women's Studies minor. Later, as Coordinator of Diversity Efforts, she traveled to Japan as a visiting professor at the Takasaki Art Centre College in 1995.

In nearly five decades as a scholar, Sr. Margaret has contributed dozens of publications to the canon of academic literature and presented on a variety of important topics. To name but a few, she authored entries in The New Catholic Encyclopedia on Theresa Maxis Duchemin and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Congregation, and she made a presentation for the American Catholic Historical Association entitled "The Struggles of Theresa Maxis Duchemin: Confronting Racism and Sexism in the Nineteenth Century Church." Through her advancements in scholarly discourse and public presentations in the community, Sr. Margaret has consistently pushed her students to excel and enriched the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area.

In addition to her academic achievements, Sr. Margaret has dedicated her life to serving her community. She donated her time, passion, and leadership to many local organizations, such as Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Women's Community Learning Coalition, Housing Coalition for Scranton Families, and St. Joseph's Center. In recognition of her service to her community, Sr. Margaret has received numerous awards and honors, including Marywood University's first Faculty Service Award.

It is my great honor to congratulate and celebrate Sr. Margaret Gannon on her lifetime of service to her students and community. Her efforts set a shining example for her students, her neighbors, and all of Northeast Pennsylvania.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and not present for roll-call votes 178 and 179. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both.

FOSTER YOUTH MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Foster Youth Month.

Every child deserves a healthy, safe, and stable home. Yet too many continue to go without these basic needs that so many of us take for granted. This May, we recognize more than 400,000 American children in foster care who are waiting for their forever family.

The theme of this year's Foster Month is "Building Blocks Toward Permanent Families"—an issue that is near to my heart. My parents took in several foster children when I was growing up. I was able to see firsthand the difference that this made, and some of them are still in touch with my family today.

Foster children belong to all of us, and we have a moral obligation to treat them with the same love and care that we would our own children.

I encourage all my colleagues to join me in recognizing May as Foster Youth Month.

ACKNOWLEDGING HEATHER PARTON

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise tonight to acknowledge Heather Parton of Santa Monica, California, on the occasion of being awarded a Hillman Prize for "Opinion & Analysis Journalism". Many in this Chamber, and untold others across the internet, better know her by her pseudonym: "Digby".

Digby, a political blogger, is the founder of the blog Hullabaloo, and has been called one of the "leading and most admired commentators" of the progressive blogosphere—by Glenn Greenwald no less, the recent recipient of a Pulitzer Prize himself.

The Sidney Hillman Foundation's announcement this evening sums up my, and many others', sentiments:

Tonight, the Sidney Hillman Foundation will honor Heather "Digby" Parton with the 2014 Hillman Prize for Opinion & Analysis Journalism. Digby's blog Hullabaloo has been a fixture in the progressive blogosphere for over a decade. Digby has eloquently opposed injustice and incompetence on issues ranging from the invasion of Iraq to the widening chasm between rich and poor in America. Whatever the topic, Digby approaches her work with a level head and a big heart.

I will give the last word to Kathleen Geier of the Washington Monthly, "Since she's the best daily political writer in America, an honor of this sort is the least we can do for her. Congrats to Digby and to the Hillman people for making such an awesome choice. Now and forever: What. Digby. Said!"

"What. Digby. Said!",

HONORING THE OAKLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of the

Oakland Youth Orchestra (OYO). Since its debut in the 1963–64 season, OYO has a history of commissioning, premiering and recording the works of great American composers. The youth orchestra performs a wide range of challenging pieces, showcasing their work and talent during several concerts each season.

Since the establishment of the Oakland Youth Orchestra in 1963, its Artistic Directors and leaders have inspired and motivated generations of students with the highest degree of commitment and professionalism. In the past 50 years, OYO has strived to promote the importance of arts education and to allow access to the arts for all youth.

Today, the Oakland Youth Orchestra consists of 88 talented young musicians, representing 46 different schools from more than 30 cities in the Bay Area. Ranging from ages 12 to 22 years old, these artists have the opportunity to learn from, and be coached by, professional orchestral musicians. The youth orchestra students have the opportunity to travel to different regions of the world, performing in Europe, the Middle East, Central and South America, Asia, the Caribbean Islands and Australia.

Moreover, the Oakland Youth Orchestra has received numerous accolades for its talented performances. For its service to contemporary music, the orchestra has received the Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music award from the American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP) five times in the course of the last four decades.

As the educational arm of the Oakland Symphony, OYO is committed to serving the community and supporting arts throughout the Bay Area. OYO is a member of Arts First Oakland, ASCAP, Association of California Symphony Orchestras, Bay Area Black United Fund and the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. In addition, OYO has participated in the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival of Hope Concert, raising over \$100,000 to benefit homeless and underserved youth.

I commend the Oakland Youth Orchestra for providing our youth with a pathway towards growth and achievement. Music is essential to student development and to our sense of identity, community and pride.

On behalf of residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I extend my congratulations on this important milestone and thank all of the many people who have contributed to the success of the Oakland Youth Orchestra. I wish OYO continued success in the years to come.